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*Conversations on the Natural Geography of Europe and Africa, &c. &c.* By Mrs. Mathias.—London, Seely and Burnside.

This little Work is by Mrs. Mathias of Dublin; subjects of Geography and Natural History are happily combined in it, and treated of in the manner likely to prove most attractive to young children, while, as might naturally be expected from the well-known character of the writer, no opportunity is lost of calling the attention to the wonderful works of the Creator of all things, and pointing from nature up to nature's God. The book is printed in London, and very incorrectly: dipping into the beginning of the second volume, we read, with some astonishment, as follows:—"To the north-west of Igberia, now Iceland, is the utmost land, called Thile or Thule." From the long list of errata at the end, we discover that this should be—"To the north-west of Hibernia, now Ireland, is," &c. The Dublin demons are frisky enough, (witness our recent paper on the astronomy of the Edinburgh Review, in which, to the astonishment of Europe, they ascribe to professor Panizzi the honours that we had in our M.S. bestowed upon Piazzi of Palermo,) but they seldom play quite so many strange pranks in a single clause of a sentence as we have just now noted in this London printed book.

*Lothian's Pocket Bible Atlas.* New Edition. Lothian, Edinburgh.

This is a collection of Scripture maps for pocket Bibles, containing Palestine, the journeys of our Lord, travels of the Apostles, settlement of Noah's descendants throughout the world, track of the Egyptians from Egypt to the land of Canaan, Canaan itself, with the allotment of the tribes, in two portions, north and south, supposed site of the terrestrial paradise, and places east of the Holy Land, with finally Jerusalem, Mount Calvary, &c. These eight maps are clearly and well engraved, and an index is prefixed enumerating the principal places in the Holy Land, and the tribe which occupied each place. For simplicity and perspicuity of illustration we can recommend it as a most suitable companion to every young person's pocket Bible, and it is a cheap and pretty little book by itself.

#### PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

*The Quarterly Review,* No. LXXXV.—London, Murray.

THE present is a highly interesting Number of the Quarterly, though it contains few, if any, articles of a merely amusing nature. Those most nearly approaching that character are Temple's Travels in Peru, of which we were enabled to give our readers an account some time ago, before it was published; Gleig's life of Sir Thomas Munro, and Washington Irving's chronicle of Granada, which was published last year. The first article is on the conversions to Christianity in the South-Sea islands, effected by British missionaries—being a review of Ellis's Polynesian Researches, which, as presenting a full and satisfactory account of the conversion of a nation from paganism to Christianity, is in the highest degree important and curious. No fewer than eight works on Egyptian antiquities, five in French, two in English, and one in German, are reviewed in a subsequent paper, or rather they are made the basis

of an essay on the early Egyptian history. Our readers may remember that we presented them lately with some curious remarks on the recent hieroglyphic discoveries of M. Champollion le Jeune, from the pen of Dr. Hincks. In this paper we are happy to see the claim of our distinguished and much lamented countryman Doctor Young, to the honour of having originated those discoveries which M. Champollion has happily carried to such a length, fully and successfully vindicated. It was Dr. Young who first proved, by the help of the famous bilingual Rosetta Stone, that the hieroglyphic symbols represented words, not things; that they were alphabetic, and not pictorial or musical. There is a review of Bishop Butler's works, which contains an able summary of the principles developed in his admirable work on the analogy of revealed religion to the constitution and course of nature. Then follows an article on the political condition and prospects of France, which will be read with peculiar interest at the present moment, when that whole country is in a state of convulsed expectation of a struggle between royalty and popular rights, which seems almost to threaten destruction to the Bourbon dynasty. The causes and remedies of pauperism in the united kingdom are next discussed, and the concluding paper is on the present distress of the country. This is attributed chiefly to the fall in the money-price of all commodities; and the remedy proposed is either to increase the supply of the precious metals, by assisting the infant States of South America and Mexico to emerge from their present lamentable condition of anarchy, and apply to working the mines; or else to diminish the demand by a re-establishment of the condemned paper currency throughout Europe, accompanied by a speedy and sufficient reform of the English banking system.

#### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, June 14.

The badness of the weather here, has thrown a gloom over all things, and the out-door amusements are limited in number, and poor in quality; yet in rainy seasons, Paris with all its disadvantages is superior to London: here are galleries in which one can walk during the worst weather, and it is no sooner fair after a heavy shower, than the Tuilleries and the Palais Royal are crowded. As to theatres, the resource is nearly the same in both countries. In France however, the entertainment is to be had at less than half price, and this among play-goers is an important consideration. The number of good theatres in Paris is double that of London, although the population is scarcely more than half that of the English capital. The predilection for such amusements must therefore be much greater among the Parisians than with the Londoners, or how, you will say, could so many theatrical speculations answer; one of the causes of success, is in the vast difference of salaries. Here a first rate actor gets 200 or 300*l.* per annum. In London he is not satisfied unless he gets at the rate of 2000 to 3000*l.* A new Opera Comique is talked of in Paris, no such thing is wanted in addition to what we now have; but it is probably a mere government job to pension off some zealous and willing agents. While on theatricals, let me bring to your recollection the delightful Jenny Vertpré, who was so great a favourite in London. She was lately at Berlin, and the king of Prussia

having heard of it, sent to request that she would go and play at Potsdam, where he was residing. She did so to the delight of the king, who made her a splendid present, and otherwise treated her with great consideration. To rush at once from amusement to science, let me tell you of an extraordinary invention here, which must interest the public generally, and particularly the medical profession. At the sitting of the Paris Academy of Science on the 8th inst. M. Auzon, a physician, exhibited an anatomical model five feet seven inches high, in the position of the Antinoüs. It is divided into two halves for the convenience of transport, and every part is made to take to pieces, so as to represent the internal arrangement of the human subject. The muscles may be removed layer by layer, until we come to the skeleton. The brain opens, and is divided into slices exhibiting the nerves and all the ramifications. The intestines, diaphragm, lungs and pericardium are removable, and the heart is divided into cavities, with red and dark blood. Altogether it is an astonishing production. It cost the artist twelve years of labour before he could complete it; but now he will be able to make others from it, at an expense of about 3000*f.* for each subject. No cabinet of anatomy, or surgical school, should be without one of these models. Even in France, where the real subject is to be had without difficulty, the members of the academy say that it will be of great service to young students.

I forgot to mention an important discovery to you in my last letter. A Parisian chemist has established a bakehouse for bread made from potatoes, which is animalized by the addition of the gelatine made from bones. In this way a food equally pleasant and more nutritious than wheaten bread is obtained, at half the expense of the latter. A large quantity of biscuits, for the use of the African expedition, has been made upon this plan. In a time of scarcity of corn, the discovery will prove a great blessing.

London, June 15.

The King's physicians continue to be much puzzled at the turns which the indisposition of their Royal patient takes. Sometimes they imagine—at least so say those who pretend to have their information from the fountain head—that the king cannot last more than a few days, and at other times they think he may get through the summer. The disease is stated in the Court Circular not to be dropsy, but this is not believed—or rather it is a mere trick of a word to conceal the fact. It is generally known that the king's disease is an affection of the heart and chest, and that the dropsical symptoms are secondary, as is the case usually; but to say that he has not dropsy is absurd, since it is acknowledged that he has been punctured for dropsy in the legs, and above the knee, and that an incision near the pericardium has been made with great success, to release the fluid. It would seem, however, that his Majesty does not lose his spirits. Two or three days ago, when Sir Matthew Tierney, who had been pretty much exhausted by his close attendance to his patient, entered the room, looking pale and weary, the king said, "Come, Tierney, you must take care of yourself, for I see you are giving way; and if you go on so, the patient will have to prescribe for and attend on the physician."

The newspapers, in the absence of other events of interest, have not failed to make the